



# Waterfowl Hunting and Fishing on the Ohio River

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN

## WEST VIRGINIA AND OHIO



### RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT SUMMARY

In 1968 the West Virginia and Ohio Departments of Natural Resources entered into an Ohio River Reciprocal Agreement. This agreement allows licensed residents of either state the right to hunt waterfowl or fish on the Ohio River and its embayments without the purchase of the other state's license. This agreement includes the Ohio River mainstem, the Ohio River shoreline, and the shorelines and open waters of Ohio River tributaries and embayments. This agreement applies only to residents of Ohio and West Virginia. Residents from states other than Ohio or West Virginia must purchase a non-resident license for the state in which they wish to hunt and/or fish.

West Virginia fishing and hunting laws and regulations must be followed when fishing or waterfowl hunting on the Ohio River mainstem and on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of West Virginia.

Ohio hunting laws and Ohio River fishing regulations for the Eastern Unit, which cover the West Virginia/Ohio border, must be followed while waterfowl hunting or fishing on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of Ohio.

The embayment and tributary reciprocal boundaries for each state are listed in this brochure. Ohio and West Virginia anglers may travel and fish in embayments and tributaries to the landmark locations listed in this table. These locations are also defined by distance from the mouth of the tributary and GPS coordinates for convenience.





## FISHING

West Virginia fishing regulations must be followed when fishing on the Ohio River proper and on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of West Virginia.

Ohio River fishing regulations for the Eastern Unit must be followed while fishing on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of Ohio; see *Ohio Fishing Regulations* (Publication 84). Please refer to the respective state fishing regulations for other information, as well as dates of free fishing days that are offered by each state. Please contact the West Virginia DNR's Charleston Office to schedule fishing tournaments, which require a permit. Also, please see the *Ohio River Fishing Guide* (available from either state) for access locations and Corps of Engineers contact information.

# OHIO RIVER RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

Ohio embayments along West Virginia's border with recommended reciprocal boundaries. All significant embayments are listed.

Stream	Ohio River Mile	River Side	Landmark	Miles Above Mouth	GPS Coordinates
Little Yellow Creek	47.2	OH	SR 7 bridge	0.2	40° 36' 51.74"N, 80° 38' 29.27"W
Yellow Creek	50.5	OH	SR 213 bridge	2.6	40° 34' 20.88"N, 80° 40' 05.48"W
Indian Cross Creek	71.7	OH	SR 7 bridge	0.9	40° 18' 58.39"N, 80° 36' 49.50"W
Indian Short Creek	81.4	OH	SR 150 bridge	0.8	40° 11' 17.17"N, 80° 41' 35.14"W
Captina Creek	109.6	OH	SR 148 bridge	2.1	39° 52' 04.16"N, 80° 49' 39.31"W
Sunfish Creek	118	OH	slack water to power line ~ 1.9 mi	1.9	39° 45' 25.53"N, 80° 53' 18.31"W
Opossum Creek	119.9	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.6 mi	0.6	39° 43' 46.13"N, 80° 51' 23.37"W
Leith's Run	150	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.4 mi	0.4	39° 26' 45.11"N, 81° 08' 57.54"W
Dana's Run	156.8	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.7 mi	0.7	39° 23' 59.85"N, 81° 14' 17.12"W
Newell Run	158.5	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.5 mi	0.5	39° 23' 18.26"N, 81° 16' 28.87"W
Bells Run	160.1	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.2 mi	0.2	39° 22' 36.60"N, 81° 17' 47.84"W
Little Muskingum River	168.3	OH	Cornersville bridge	2.6	39° 23' 41.44"N, 81° 22' 31.70"W
Duck Creek	170.7	OH	SR 26 bridge	1.7	39° 25' 34.57"N, 81° 25' 17.78"W
Muskingum River	172.2	OH	Devola Dam	6	39° 28' 11.31"N, 81° 29' 29.81"W
Little Hocking River	192	OH	Rt fork to confluence of Little West Branch	3.5	39° 17' 02.21"N, 81° 42' 41.66"W
			Lt fork to TWP Rd 189 bridge	4.6	39° 16' 49.35"N, 81° 44' 21.26"W
Swan Run	198.3	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.5 mi	0.5	39° 11' 41.05"N, 81° 44' 28.13"W
Hocking River	199.4	OH	slack water extends to Federal Creek confluence	17.4	39° 19' 09.96"N, 81° 52' 45.88"W
Indian Run	200.3	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.9 mi	0.9	39° 09' 55.72"N, 81° 45' 57.87"W
Sugar Camp Run	202.4	OH	slack water extends ~ 0.8 mi	0.8	39° 08' 42.18"N, 81° 45' 21.07"W
Shade River	210.8	OH	slack water extends to Spruce Creek @ normal pool	3.2	39° 04' 18.05"N, 81° 49' 59.73"W
Old Town Creek	226.3	OH	slack water extends ~ 1.5 mi @ normal pool	1.5	38° 57' 32.31"N, 81° 49' 26.49"W
Leading Creek	234.2	OH	Railroad bridge	1.5	38° 59' 30.96"N, 82° 04' 23.50"W
Campaign Creek	262.4	OH	power line crossing @ 0.8 mi	0.8	38° 52' 59.27"N, 82° 08' 57.55"W
Chickamauga Creek	270.1	OH	SR 588 bridge	1	38° 48' 41.10"N, 82° 12' 29.86"W
Raccoon Creek	276	OH	SR 218 bridge @ Thivener	5.8	38° 44' 12.29"N, 82° 14' 42.29"W
Indian Guyan Creek	306	OH	slack water extends ~ 1.7 mi @ normal pool	1.7	38° 26' 52.73"N, 82° 23' 47.12"W
Symmes Creek	308.7	OH	slack water extends ~ 1.35 mi @ normal pool	1.35	38° 26' 05.03"N, 82° 27' 42.47"W

West Virginia embayments and tributaries with recommended reciprocal boundaries. The boundary for areas not listed would extend to the first riffle.

Stream	WV River Mile	River Side	Landmark	Miles Above Mouth	GPS Coordinates
Wheeling Creek	90.7	WV	I-70 Bridge	1.7	40° 04' 24.40"N, 80° 42' 45.45"W
Fish Creek	113.8	WV	Graysville Bridge	2.1	39° 48' 58.36"N, 80° 47' 50.26"W
Fishing Creek	128.4	WV	State Route 7 Bridge	2.6	39° 37' 04.88"N, 80° 50' 50.46"W
Middle Island Creek	154.1	WV	Mouth of McKim Creek	4.6	39° 23' 26.85"N, 81° 08' 19.78"W
French Creek	157.7	WV	Rt. 18 Bridge	1.7	39° 22' 06.47"N, 81° 14' 22.58"W
Little Kanawha River	184.5	WV	Mouth of Slate Creek	15.3	39° 08' 15.23"N, 81° 26' 34.27"W
Little Sand Creek	193.9	WV	Rt. 892 Bridge	1.4	39° 13' 33.67"N, 81° 40' 39.72"W
Lee Creek	201.8	WV	Mouth of North Fork	2.2	39° 09' 10.49"N, 81° 43' 11.41"W
Mill Creek	231.3	WV	Cottageville Bridge	4.4	39° 52' 02.29"N, 81° 49' 07.48"W
Kanawha River (no tributaries)	265.7	WV	Buffalo Bridge	24.3	38° 35' 01.28"N, 82° 00' 00.79"W
Guyandotte River	305.3	WV	Interstate 64 Bridge	6.5	38° 25' 20.14"N, 82° 17' 57.04"W
Twelvepole Creek	313.4	WV	Rt. 60 Bridge	0.9	38° 23' 46.69"N, 82° 32' 29.12"W
Big Sandy River - Because this river is shared with Kentucky, it is not included in this agreement.					



## WATERFOWL HUNTING

Under current federal waterfowl management regulations West Virginia is in the Atlantic Flyway and Ohio is in the Mississippi Flyway. Therefore, each state may have different waterfowl hunting seasons and regulations. Hunters are reminded that opening and closing dates, bag limits, and other regulations may vary between Ohio and West Virginia. It is the hunter's responsibility to know and comply with the existing laws, rules and regulations (see West Virginia or Ohio hunting and trapping regulation digests and the respective state's migratory waterfowl hunting regulations).

Waterfowl shooting may take place on/over the Ohio River and West Virginia embayments/tributaries only during West Virginia's open season. Hunters may not hunt from the Ohio bank of the river when the Ohio season is closed.

When hunting in Ohio while the West Virginia season is closed, hunting will be allowed only on Ohio River embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of Ohio.

West Virginia does not allow Sunday hunting. Therefore, the Ohio River and the embayments and tributaries that are within the boundaries of West Virginia are closed to all hunting on Sunday. Sunday waterfowl hunting is only allowed on embayments and tributaries that are within the boundaries of Ohio, and only during the Ohio season. On Sundays, hunters are reminded that they may not shoot waterfowl that are flying over the Ohio River from the Ohio shoreline.

Waterfowl legally shot in the state of Ohio, that fall into the Ohio River during a closed West Virginia season may be retrieved from the Ohio River mainstem. Waterfowl legally shot in West Virginia, that fall onto the Ohio shore during a closed Ohio season may be retrieved. To retrieve waterfowl from private property, hunters must obtain permission from the landowner. A firearm may be used to kill crippled waterfowl that cannot be retrieved otherwise.



### OHIO AND WEST VIRGINIA SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTS

The previously described reciprocal agreement also applies to these youth hunts. Ducks, geese, coots, and mergansers are permitted. Bag limits are the same as regular season. This season is open to youth hunters 15 years of age and younger statewide. In Ohio all youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed, non-hunting adult age 18 or older. In West Virginia the adult must be age 21 or older. Refer to the appropriate state's Waterfowl Hunting Seasons brochure for dates and times.

Information for Ohio not found in this brochure, such as license and stamp requirements, dates, times, and bag limits, may be found in the brochures *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons* (Publication 298) and *Waterfowl Hunting Seasons* (Publication 295). Also, see the West Virginia brochures *West Virginia Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations* and the *West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulation Summary*. These brochures are available by September each year.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please refer to the following list of publications from each state to insure that you are in compliance with all pertinent regulations and for information such as license and stamp requirements, season dates, times, and bag limits.

**Ohio:** Ohio Fishing Regulations (Publication 84)  
Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations (Publication 85)  
Waterfowl Hunting Seasons (Publication 295)  
Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons (Publication 298)

**West Virginia:** West Virginia Fishing Regulation Summary  
West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Summary  
Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

#### Ohio:

Wildlife District Four  
360 East State Street  
Athens, OH 45701  
(740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Three  
912 Portage Lakes Drive  
Akron, OH 44319  
(330) 644-2293

Central Office  
1840 Belcher Drive  
Columbus, OH 43224-1300  
1-800-WILDLIFE



Publication 404  
(1003)

#### West Virginia:

DNR District One  
(Upper Ohio River)  
1304 Goose Run Road  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
(304) 367-2720

DNR District Five  
(Lower Ohio River)  
McClintic WMA Pt.  
Route 1, Box 484  
Pleasant, WV 25550  
(304) 675-0871

DNR District Six  
(Middle Ohio River)  
2311 Ohio Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
(304) 420-4550

Wildlife Resources Section  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E. Bldg. 3  
Charleston, WV 25305  
(304) 558-2771